For reference material related to FSA, including:

- Interpreting and Communicating British Columbia Foundation Skills Assessment Results
- Strengths and Areas Requiring Improvement
- Scoring Rubrics
- Test Specifications
- Marker Application
- Performance Standards for Reading Comprehension, Writing, Numeracy and Social Responsibility

Visit these web sites:
www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/fsa/
www.bced.gov.bc.ca/perf_stands/

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Ministry of
Education

British Columbia Foundation Skills Assessment Results 2003

Highlights

Foundation Skills Assessment

Each spring, over 140,000 Grades 4, 7 and 10 students across British Columbia take part in the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA), an assessment of reading comprehension, writing and numeracy.

The **main purpose** of this assessment is to help the province, school districts and individual schools evaluate how well reading comprehension, writing and numeracy are being addressed and make plans to improve student achievement.

A **secondary purpose** is to provide schools, school planning councils, teachers, students and parents or guardians with an external source of information about a student's performance in these important foundation skill areas.

FSA measures important skills that are embedded in the provincial curricula. Although not confined to any single course or grade, the skills assessed by FSA are most closely linked to learning outcomes in language arts and mathematics.

FSA provides a snapshot of how well students are attaining important foundation skills in relation to provincial standards. The information it offers should complement, not replace, other information about schools and individual students gathered in the school or classroom.

FSA Facts

- FSA 2003 consisted of a set of tests that assessed selected reading comprehension, writing and numeracy skills of students in Grades 4, 7 and 10.
- The tests measure whether students can successfully demonstrate important foundation skills that apply across subject areas in the provincial curriculum.
- Tests are designed provincially and co-developed, administered, marked and evaluated by BC teachers.
- FSA results are available at the provincial, district, school and individual student levels. Provincial, district and school results are available at www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/fsa/results/. Individual student results are confidential and provided on a restricted basis.
- Schools are responsible for distributing individual students' results.
- A provincial assessment advisory committee comprising education organizations provides advice to the Ministry of Education on the reporting and interpretation of FSA results, including communication with districts, schools, school planning councils, teachers, parents and students.
- French versions of the tests are administered to Francophone students.
- Most schools administer FSA over three consecutive half-days to allow students sufficient time to demonstrate their skills.
- Students with exceptional needs may be excused from this assessment.
- Individual results on the FSA do not count toward students' report card marks.

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FSA 2003 Results

Reading Comprehension | **Writing** | **Numeracy**

All percentages are expressed as whole numbers and therefore may not add up to 100.

Not Yet Within Expectations
Meets Expectations
Exceeds Expectations

Grade 4

	Reading Comprehension Participation Rate - 92%	Writing Participation Rate - 92%	Numeracy Participation Rate - 92%
	Not Yet / Meets / Exceeds	Not Yet / Meets / Exceeds	Not Yet / Meets / Exceeds
All Students	23% / 73% / 5%	6% / 93% / 1%	13% / 71% / 16%
Male	25% / 71% / 4%	9% / 91% / 0%	12% / 71% / 18%
Female	20% / 74% / 6%	3% / 95% / 1%	14% / 72% / 14%
Aboriginal/ First Nations	44% / 54% / 2%	15% / 85% / 0%	29% / 65% / 6%
ESL	33% / 64% / 2%	6% / 93% / 1%	18% / 68% / 14%
French Immersion	15% / 78% / 7%	5% / 94% / 1%	8% / 76% / 16%

Grade 7

	Reading Comprehension Participation Rate - 92%	Writing Participation Rate - 92%	Numeracy Participation Rate - 92%
	Not Yet / Meets / Exceeds	Not Yet / Meets / Exceeds	Not Yet / Meets / Exceeds
All Students	23% / 66% / 11%	21% / 78% / 2%	16% / 74% / 10%
Male	27% / 65% / 8%	28% / 71% / 1%	16% / 74% / 11%
Female	20% / 67% / 13%	13% / 85% / 2%	17% / 75% / 9%
Aboriginal/ First Nations	47% / 50% / 3%	39% / 61% / 0%	36% / 62% / 2%
ESL	43% / 53% / 4%	29% / 70% / 1%	19% / 67% / 14%
French Immersion	10% / 72% / 18%	12% / 86% / 2%	8% / 80% / 12%

Grade 10

	Reading Comprehension Participation Rate - 79%	Writing Participation Rate - 78%	Numeracy Participation Rate - 78%
	Not Yet / Meets / Exceeds	Not Yet / Meets / Exceeds	Not Yet / Meets / Exceeds
All Students	26% / 65% / 9%	17% / 74% / 10%	22% / 66% / 12%
Male	32% / 62% / 6%	23% / 70% / 7%	21% / 65% / 14%
Female	20% / 67% / 13%	11% / 77% / 12%	23% / 68% / 9%
Aboriginal/ First Nations	47% / 50% / 3%	34% / 63% / 3%	44% / 54% / 3%
ESL	53% / 46% / 1%	40% / 57% / 2%	22% / 58% / 20%
French Immersion	6% / 72% / 22%	5% / 78% / 17%	8% / 75% / 17%

FSA Year-to-Year Summary

Proportion of Students Meeting or Exceeding Expectations	Grade 4			Grade 7			Grade 10		
	Reading Comprehension	Writing	Numeracy	Reading Comprehension	Writing	Numeracy	Reading Comprehension	Writing	Numeracy
2000	79%	n/a	80%	81%	n/a	80%	79%	n/a	75%
2001	78%	91%	84%	76%	81%	81%	75%	86%	77%
2002	80%	94%	85%	76%	84%	82%	71%	87%	76%
2003	77%	94%	87%	77%	79%	84%	74%	83%	78%

FSA 2000 Reading Comprehension and Numeracy serve as the baseline against which results of future FSA may be compared. Due to significant changes made to the FSA 2000 Writing, the baseline for Writing is 2001.

More information on FSA results is available at www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/fsa/results/

At the provincial level, FSA results for 2003, compared to the baseline, show improvement in student performance for Numeracy at all grades, and for Writing at Grade 4. Results show lower performance for Reading Comprehension at all grades, and for Writing at Grades 7 and 10.

FSA in Context

Grade 12 Exams

Student performance on Grade 12 examinations in English 12 and Principles of Mathematics 12 has remained relatively constant over the past five years: between 1997-98 and 2001-02, the success rate for the English 12 Exam varies from 87% to 91%, and from 83% to 87% for Principles of Mathematics 12 Exam.

More information on provincial secondary examinations is available at www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/standrep.htm

National and International Tests

BC students perform about the same in reading, writing, mathematics and science as other students in Canada and better than other students internationally in reading, mathematics and science.

Most Recent National Assessments School Achievement Indicators Program (SAIP)	Student Performance (13- and 16-year-old students)
1998 SAIP Reading and Writing	BC students performed as well as Canadian students.
1999 SAIP Science	BC students performed as well as, or better, than Canadian students.
2001 SAIP Mathematics	BC students performed as well as Canadian students.
2002 SAIP Writing	BC students performed as well as Canadian students.

Most Recent International Assessments	Student Performance
1999 Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) Grade 8 students	• The average performance of BC students in both mathematics and science was statistically significantly higher than the international averages, and not significantly different from the Canadian averages. • Quebec was the only province with mathematics scores that were significantly higher than BC. Alberta was the only province with science scores that were statistically significantly higher than BC.
2000 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) Reading Mathematics Science 15-year-old students	• The average performance of BC students in reading, mathematics, and science was statistically significantly higher than the international averages, and not significantly different from the Canadian averages. • Quebec and Alberta were the only provinces with mathematics scores that were statistically significantly higher than BC.

More information on national and international assessments is available at www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/nat_int_assess.htm

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